

HR, JW, JP, LF, EW, RB

5/28/72

Editor
The Washington Post
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Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Sir,

For Richard J. Walton to ask (5/28/72), "Is Edward Moore Kennedy fit to be president...?" is tantamount to saying that in my lifetime none were.

Examples: Wilson and the League of Nations (and the end-term incompetence); Harding (caught as Senator in a New York City whorehouse, he pleaded Senatorial immunity, successfully); Coolidge (seed of depression); Hoover (depression, with "two chickens in every pot"); FDR (Pearl Harbor); Truman (Korea ~~plus~~ plus); Eisenhower (Dulles and Vietnam; Sherman Adams and Goldfine); JFK (Bay of Pigs); Nixon (you name it).

And to blame him for the public-relations aspect of Chappaquiddick is to confuse lawyer and client (Esquire, 2/72, of the "legendary" Burke Marshall, who brain-trusted: "It was a bad thing, I suppose...").

As a "no-nonsense historian" Walton should know that almost anyone is "fit to be president", and almost nobody isn't, from the record.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg